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July 18, 2000

Federal Aviation Administration
Department of Transportation, Dockets
Docket FAA-2000-7119 - 23
400 Seventh St. SW
Room 401
Washington DC 20590

Gentlemen:

I support requiring airlines to equip all planes with automatic external defibrillators and to train and certify flight crews in their use. Our local fire department has demonstrated the laptop-sized AED, and it appears to be very simple to operate. The AED actually "talks" the operator through the procedure.

In addition, each flight crew should include at least two passenger cabin personnel who are certified in first aid and CPR and have completed enough basic emergency medical training to handle the broad spectrum of common emergencies reported to the FAA. Passenger planes (like ships) should have a direct telephone link with a major medical facility to obtain assistance and advice in case of emergency. Expanded on-board medical kits are a must.

The Association of Flight Attendants is correct in requesting that the government, not the airlines, regulate standardized emergency medical training requirements. The public has the right to expect the same level of emergency training of staff regardless of the airline. If personnel receive standardized training and satisfy requirements for certification, the airlines should indemnify them against passenger claims. Physicians who are passengers and render aid should also be similarly protected (good Samaritan law).

With the numbers of airline passengers dramatically increasing, the possibilities for medical emergencies expand incrementally. Please act as soon as possible to upgrade in-flight emergency medical care.

Sincerely,

Sharon D. Scull